

Team Newsletter



Welcome to Team 7-Blue!

We are very excited to embark upon this new school year with you. As always, we want you to keep in mind that we are in this together, as a team. Please feel free to contact us whenever!

Here are your 7-Blue Teachers:

ELA- Kelly Lawlor (Room 162)
Math- Kara Orfalea (Room 153)
Science- Barbara DePalo (Room 161)
Social Studies- Karen Binder (Room 160)
Essential Skills- Talene Orlando (Room 159)

We know that you are transitioning into a new middle school building, and we will be right there to help you adjust!

New School Webpage

Please visit our new district webpage: [Shrewsbury Public Schools](#). Click on "Schools"—"Oak Middle School" to find "Resources" like Forms and Applications or information on our [Summer Reading Program](#). The School Handbook can be found under "Policies and Procedures". You can also sign up for weekly OMS emails from Dr. Jones under [Communications](#). Plus, get the scoop on events under "Calendar" and "Activities"!

Supply List for our Team:

These are the general supplies you will need at Oak Middle School: [Grade 7 General Supply List](#)

In addition to general supplies, you will also need:

- A composition book for ELA (not a spiral notebook)
- A pack on thin, colored sharpies

Please Sign-In to Schoology

Schoology is a Learning Management System currently being used at the High School and by some teachers at the middle and elementary level to allow students and parents to access assignments and class materials online.

Access for Parents

Parents can create a Schoology parent account by logging into the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and taking note of the Schoology Access Code on the main page. After obtaining the code, parents can proceed to the [Schoology website](#) to create an account and associate their account with their child using the code from the Parent Portal.

Access for Students

Using the iPad app, students may access Schoology using the "Username Login" option, searching for and selecting "Shrewsbury Public Schools," and logging in with their SPS Google account.

On a computer or iPad web browser, students may access Schoology on a web browser by visiting <https://lms.shrewsbury.k12.ma.us> and logging in with their SPS Google account.



Mark your
Calendar:

Sept. 1
First Day

Sept. 5
No School

Sept. 8
Labor Day

Sept. 11
Picture Day

Sept. 16
Curr. Night

Messages from your Teachers:

From Mrs. Lawlor your ELA Teacher-

"Hello Team! I am delighted to begin working with you this year! We have an array of fun reading opportunities planned for the year. You will be expected to keep up with individual and class reading assignments. We will utilize close reading strategies that include u-n-r-a-v-e-l and 'talking to the text' annotations. We will also expand our creative and persuasive writing skills through frequent practice. Our final goal will be to combine these reading and writing strategies to conduct a major research project by the end of the year."

From Mrs. Orfalea your Math Teacher-

"Welcome back to school 7 Blue students and families! We have a lot of fun and interesting work planned for this year. Math is a part of our everyday lives and we will be investigating many problems that are presented in real world contexts. Students will have the opportunities to relate their own prior experiences to these problems and also see how the topics we are learning may be applied in their futures. The major concepts that we will explore this year involve ratios and proportions, rational numbers and linear equations, two- and three-dimensional geometry, and data distributions. Hopefully students will find math class to be interesting and enjoyable, and they will develop a deep level of understanding in their learning."

From Mrs. DePalo your Science Teacher-

"Welcome to 7Blue Science! This year we are going to journey through Biology together. You will explore how closely you are related to, and dependent on, all the other living organisms on our planet Earth. My hope for you is that you will grow in your ability to be a scientific thinker. To do this you will need to be curious, skeptical, flexible, creative, discover connections, and to keep a good sense of humor.

I will keep the class fun, safe and interesting. All I ask of you is to come to class and participate. Work with others in a respectful way and contribute your fair share.

From Mrs. Binder your Social Studies Teacher-

"Welcome to 7 Blue! This year we will learn about places on all the major continents to make them "real". We will focus on the physical, political, economic and cultural geography of places around the world in order to increase GLOBAL AWARENESS and the knowledge of important events and issues that affect us"

From Mrs. Orlando your Essential Skills Teacher- "Hi, 7-Blue parents and students! I am Talene Orlando and I am the Essential Skills, and small group Math and Language Arts teacher this year. This is my third year in 7th grade, and my first year at Oak. Teaching with me is Mrs. Maureen McNamara, a fabulous assistant teacher who will be helping out across all classes on our team. We are ready to have a great year with lots of reading, writing, and growing ahead! I am so excited to get to know you all and have a wonderful year. "

Upcoming Events:

Social Studies Field Trip

Students will visit Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA on October 28th. Please visit the website at <http://www.heifer.org/>. You will receive more information soon!

Snack Policy:

Dear Parents,

This year we have students in our 7th grade class with severe allergies to peanuts and/or tree nuts. Because of the seriousness of this allergy, we are asking you to refrain from sending peanut or tree nut products to school for snacks. This includes food items that may have been manufactured in a factory that also processes nut products.

Contact Us:

Communication:

We will be sending our important team updates and announcements via Email and Schoology (please make sure you can sign-in).

Email:

Please Contact the Whole team by emailing us at- 7blue@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us



**KEEP
CALM
AND BELIEVE THAT
BLUE TEAM
ROCKS**

Contact Information:

Please contact all team teachers at →

Email:

7blue@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Phone:

508-841-1200